



County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Social Services

Bryce Yokomizo
Director

April 30, 2002

TO: Each Supervisor

Handwritten initials

FROM: Bryce Yokomizo, Director

SUBJECT: EVALUATION REPORT ON AFTER-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

The County funded After-School Enrichment Program received its first evaluation, which was completed by the Department of Education, University of California, Irvine and Research Support Services. The evaluation was focused on the Los Angeles Unified School District's (LAUSD) YS-CARE after-school enrichment program for children in grades 1-5. The attached evaluation report was released on April 2, 2002 and highly praises the success of this program's first year and states that "it is a model for the nation for ensuring academic achievement and development among children of recipients of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families".

Background

Your Board approved the After-School Enrichment Program on May 11, 1999, which authorized the DPSS Director to enter into contracts with LAUSD and LACOE to develop and implement after-school enrichment programs designed to offer a safe environment that included academic assistance, homework help, enrichment activities, recreation, and quality child care at well-supervised school sites. The targeted countywide sites were at those schools with the highest concentration of CalWORKs families. The contracts also required annual evaluations reports.

By February 1, 2000, YS-CARE was operational at 28 elementary schools, with 1,464 children enrolled.

Evaluation Report

The report describes the evaluation of the YS-CARE program at the initial 28 elementary schools. Outcome measures employed for the evaluation were academic achievement and behavioral measures. In addition, evaluation surveys were conducted with students, parents, classroom teachers and YS-CARE staff.

Findings on Academic Achievement and Behavioral Measures

Matched pair comparisons including 350 YS-CARE participants and 350 matched non-participants reflected that YS-CARE participants consistently improved more in achievement and behavioral measures as follows:

- Higher gains on the SAT-9 Reading and SAT-9 Math scores (used by State);
- Higher gains on the LAUSD Reading Achievement;
- Higher gains (for the English Language Learners) on the SAT-9 Reading, SAT-9 Math and LAUSD Reading Achievement;
- Initially had significantly lower scores on Work and Study Habits and Citizenship, but the gap narrowed by the end of the year, with almost half of the initial differences smaller; and
- Lastly, it was noted that particularly large benefits of the program were found among students who initially had the lowest performance on the achievement tests.

Findings from Surveys of Students, Parents, Teachers and YS-CARE staff

- Students in the program reported significantly higher rates of assistance with homework and finishing of homework than did non-participants and significantly higher levels of participation in regular day school activities. More than 90% reported that staff was caring and that they learned a lot, enjoyed the activities and felt safe at YS-CARE.
- Parents highly regarded the program and rated it as excellent. Almost 100% indicated that their children greatly benefitted from the homework assistance, developed new interests and skills and liked the activities. They felt YS-CARE was a safe place.
- Classroom teachers also felt very strongly about the success of the program as 92% indicated that students completed their homework; 93% felt that English fluency increased for those in need; 88% believed that children developed new interests and skills; 89% felt that positive behavior was reinforced; 91% thought that children were helped to stay out of trouble; and almost all agreed that in-grade retention was reduced.
- YS-CARE staff expressed similar assessments as the parents and teachers.

Current Program Status

YS-CARE is currently operational at 71 LAUSD sites with approximately 5,300 children enrolled. The contract terms June 30, 2002; however, we are preparing an amendment for your Board approval to extend the contract for one additional year, utilizing Performance Incentive (PI) funds that remain in the contract due to slow ramp up of the program and additional PI funds that your Board has approved to maintain at its current level

BY ps

Attachment

- c. Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Superintendent, LAUSD